

CORONA

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9 Jan 1959

Memo for DD/P

Subject: Briefing of Gen. Power at SAC Hqs by Col. Burke

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c. CORONA In addition to briefing Gen. Power, I also briefed M/G Edmundson and M/G Westover individually and covered the background and development of the CORONA project with emphasis on the fact that BMD would do the shooting and handling, but that CIA developed the camera package and has made arrangements for high quality processing equipment. The biomedical aspects of the shots were discussed as well as the USAF air-snatch recovery technique. I stated that camera development would continue although the first two camera packages have been completed. A schedule of firings was given as approximately one per month starting about 9 January with the first camera package being launched in April or early May.

All three individuals being briefed had swallowed the CORONA cover story and were most concerned with regard to delays and setbacks announced for the 117-L project. All were relieved to know that a capability would soon exist and that continued development would go on with regard to the camera package since the resolution required to pinpoint ICBM sites would be greatly enhanced by longer focal lengths.

NRO review(s) completed

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Gen. Power considered that it was extremely important to have an IR warning capability in the 117-L. His two major requirements consist of the tactical warning system afforded by IR plus precise knowledge of the Russian ICBM locations.

(With regard to CORONA, I told each of the Generals that only three people in SAC Headquarters had been briefed.)

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